

United States Geography



To what extent has geography affected the political, social, and economic development of the United States?

Name _____ Per. ____
Teacher _____

Geography of the U.S.

_____ is the study of the Earth and its features. It also studies the distribution of life on Earth, including human life and the effects produced by human activity.

Geographers use **5** themes to study an area:

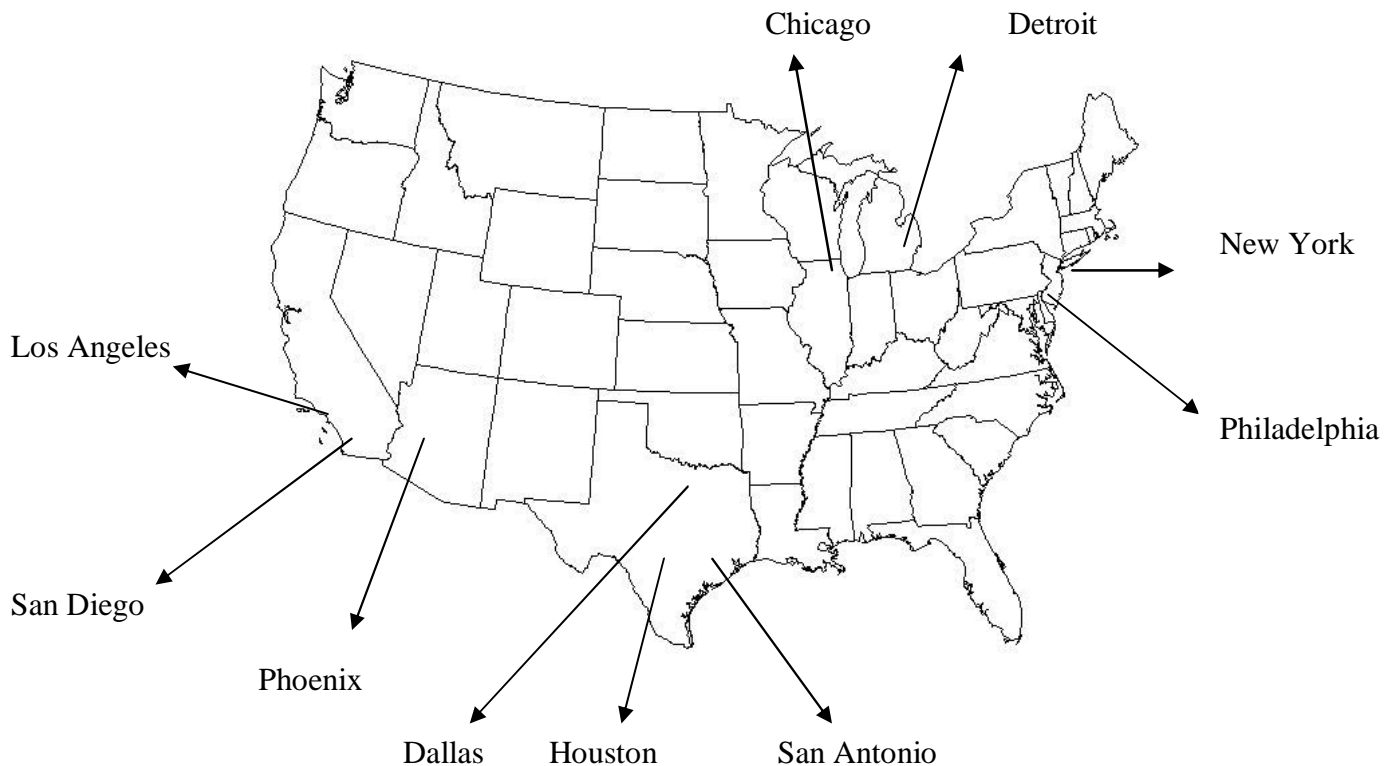
- A. location
- B. place
- C. movement
- D. regions
- E. human-environment interaction

To study & describe these themes, geographers use different types of maps.

Map Types:

1. A _____ map shows boundaries such as cities, states, and counties.
2. A _____ map shows the earth's various landforms, water, etc. through various shadings and colors.
3. A _____ map shows the physical features of an area. They feature contour lines and can depict 3D variations of terrain. It is the best type of map to look at if you want to look at the physical features of an area.

To look at the movement of people within the United States, geographers can look at a map to pinpoint the location of the largest cities.



Cities

Cities in the U.S. are constantly changing. Why would they change?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What effect does that have on our government?

What effect does that have on our country?

Regions

Geographers describe regions as places that have at least one common characteristic. Regions can be defined by physical characteristics such as landforms or climate. They can also be defined by cultural characteristics. Political regions include towns, counties, cities, states, and the United States as a whole.



_____ is where most of you live.

_____ is a state bordering New York.

Geography Vocabulary

Climate: the condition of a place in relation to various phenomena of the atmosphere as temperature, moisture, etc., especially as they affect animal or vegetable life. America's climate is mostly _____, but tropical in Hawaii and Florida, _____ in Alaska, semiarid in the Great Plains west of the Mississippi River, and _____ in the Great Basin of the southwest.

Terrain: _____

The U.S. terrain is characterized by vast _____, mountains in the west, hills and low mountains in the east; rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska; rugged, volcanic topography in Hawaii.

Major Mountain Ranges

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

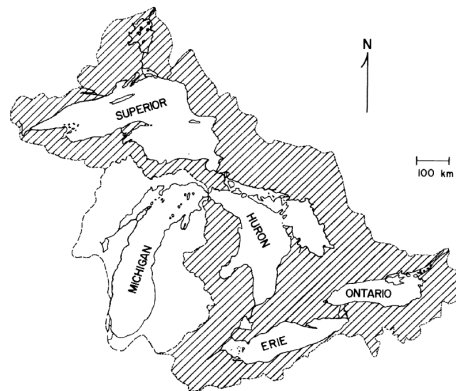
River:

Example:

Lake: body of fresh or salt water entirely _____.

U.S. Great Lakes

1. H _____
2. O _____
3. M _____
4. E _____
5. S _____



Ocean: a great body of salt water that occupies 2/3 of the surface of the earth, including the _____, _____, _____, _____.

Circle the 2 oceans that border the U.S.

_____ : a facility at the edge of an ocean, river or lake for receiving _____ and transferring cargo and persons to them.

Examples:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Peninsula: a body of land that is _____ on _____ sides.

Examples:

Gulf: a portion of an _____ that extends into the land and is partly surrounded by land (usually larger than a bay)

Example:

1.

City: _____

County: a region created by territorial division for the purpose of _____.

State: politically organized people under the same _____.

_____: a geographic area under the jurisdiction of a sovereign state.

_____: any state or territory protected and partially controlled either directly or indirectly by an _____.

Desert: an area, _____, where the annual _____ is < 25 cm (10 in).

_____: a group of closely spaced mountains or parallel ridges.

Examples:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Plain: an expanse of land with relatively _____ that is often more suitable for farming than plateaus or mountains.

_____: the part of an island or continent that borders an ocean, gulf, sea, or large lake.

_____: coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphate, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber.

Land Mass: a large, usually contiguous segment of a _____.

United States Political & Physical Geography

1. Label the states (write out the full name). Write the name of the northeastern states next to the corresponding number.

2. Label the following physical features:

Mountains

Cascade Range
Sierra Nevada
Rocky Mountains
Mt. McKinley
Mt. Rainier
Mt. Whitney

Land Forms

Great Plains
Central Plains
Great Basin

Rivers

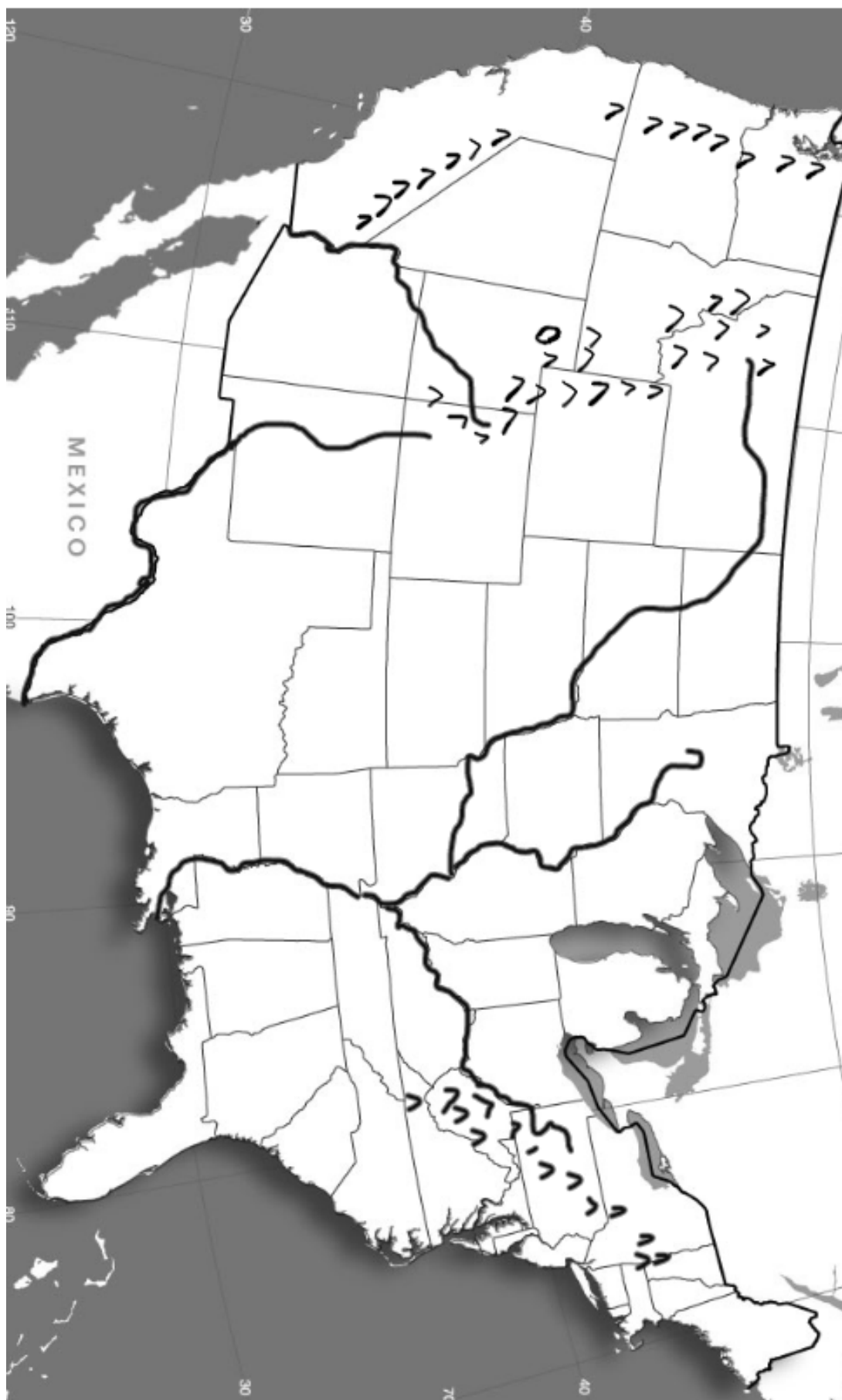
Mississippi River
Ohio River
Missouri River
Rio Grande
Colorado River
Hudson River

Lakes

Lake Huron
Lake Ontario
Lake Michigan
Lake Erie
Lake Superior
Great Salt Lake

Bodies of Water

Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
Gulf of Mexico



United States Map Analysis

Directions: Using Maps 1-5 and page 16 in the *Atlas of United States History*, answer the following questions.

Map 1: Climate

1. Name two states that have significant desert areas.
2. Name one state that has a wet, tropical climate.
3. Name one state that has tundra.
4. Compare the climate in the Northeast to the climate in the Southeast.

Map 2: Vegetation

5. Make a prediction: how does the differing vegetation in the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. impact the land use in those areas?
6. Why is the vegetation in the Western U.S. more diverse than the vegetation in the Eastern U.S.?

Map 3: Agriculture

7. What is the major agricultural activity in the midwestern plains?
8. What is the major agricultural activity in the Western states?
9. Name two regions where timber is the dominant agricultural activity.
10. Describe the agriculture in New York.

Map 4: Industry

11. How do the industries in the North, South, and West differ? List the industries found in each region.
12. Refer to **Map 4** and **Map 5: Population Density**. What conclusion can you draw about the relationship between industry and population density from these two maps?

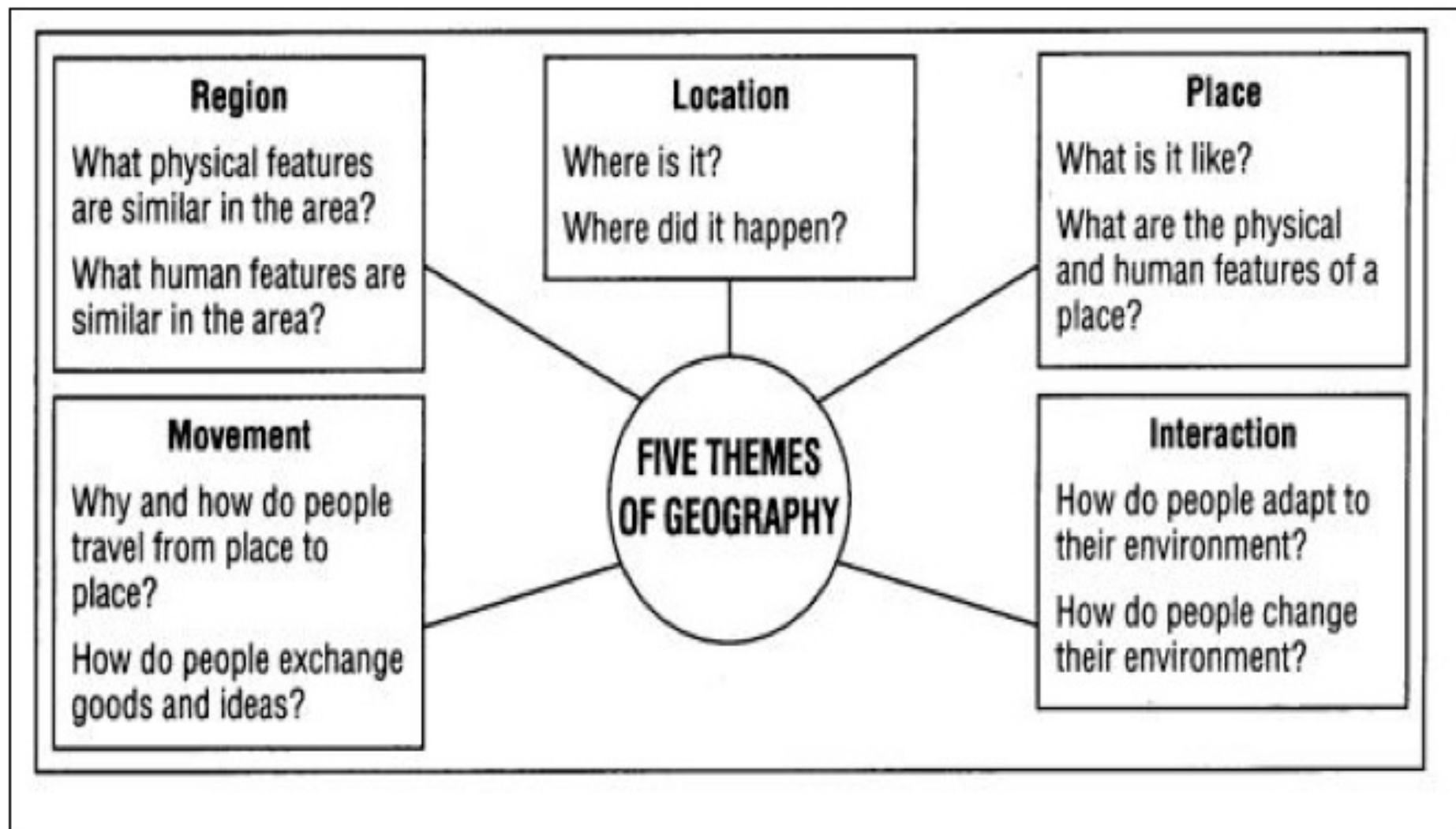
Page 16 in *Atlas of United States History*

13. What physical feature limited early settlement of the United States?
14. Judging from the areas settled by 1810, what physical feature encouraged settlement?
15. What physical features continued to limit settlement in 1890?
16. Refer to **page 16** and **Map 5: Population Density**. Have there been any significant changes in settlement patterns? Why or why not?

To what extent has geography affected the political, social or economic development of the United States?

#	Action	Historical circumstances that resulted in the action	Influence of a geographic feature on the action.	Impact of the action on the United States.
1	Panama Canal 1903	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the S-A war, U.S. ships had to travel around S. America to reach Cuba. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. controls the Canal Zone until 1999. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation, communication, and commerce are improved within the Western Hemisphere.
2	Monroe Doctrine 1823	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. also has interests in controlling the nations of the W. Hemisphere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Atlantic Ocean separated the nations of the Western Hemisphere from Europe. Although the U.S. was not militarily strong enough to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, the distance of Europe from the W. Hemisphere combined with the threat was enough of a deterrence. 	
3	Acquisition of the Philippines 1898	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. needed colonies in the Pacific Ocean to act as "way stations" for the trip to China. The Philippines provided a convenient location for military bases. The Philippines had resources that the U.S. industries could use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. fights a three-year civil war to subdue the Philippines. We occupy the Philippines until July 4, 1946. Important military bases during the Cold War.

4	Louisiana Purchase 1803	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. wanted to buy New Orleans from the French to avoid having to pay duties for using the Mississippi River. Napoleon offers President Jefferson the Louisiana Territory, including the Mississippi River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of the U.S. doubles. Transportation, communication and commerce improve due to control of the river. A precedent is set that the President can act outside of the boundaries of the Constitution. The national debt is created.
5	Homestead Act 1862		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because the plains were so vast and desolate, no one wanted to move out there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500,000 people move out to the Great Plains thereby establishing a huge agricultural sector. The Buffalo and the Native Americans are pushed onto reservations.
6	Transcontinental Railroad Act 1850		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because the distance between the east and west coasts was so far, travel by horse or wagon was very slow. The United States was becoming two separate nations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nation is linked by the railroad. Transportation, communication and commerce improve. The Buffalo and the Native Americans are pushed onto reservations.
7	Interstate Highway Act 1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rise of the automobile culture in the 1900s caused traffic and congestion on the outdated state highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like the Transcontinental Railroad Act, the large distance between the east and west coasts necessitated government assistance in building a better transportation route. 	
8	Erie Canal 1825		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canal would connect the Hudson River to Lake Erie, thus connecting NYC to Ohio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commerce improves Cities rise- NYC, Buffalo, Rochester Chicago, Detroit. N.E. farmers go out of business.



United States of America

Name the State!

www.graphicmaps.com



1 _____	13 _____	25 _____	37 _____
2 _____	14 _____	26 _____	38 _____
3 _____	15 _____	27 _____	39 _____
4 _____	16 _____	28 _____	40 _____
5 _____	17 _____	29 _____	41 _____
6 _____	18 _____	30 _____	42 _____
7 _____	19 _____	31 _____	43 _____
8 _____	20 _____	32 _____	44 _____
9 _____	21 _____	33 _____	45 _____
10 _____	22 _____	34 _____	46 _____
11 _____	23 _____	35 _____	47 _____
12 _____	24 _____	36 _____	48 _____
49 _____	50 _____		

[illegible]